PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Home from the annual convention which was held in Milwaukee this year via Denver for my grand daughter's wedding which of course was perfect with a great mountain setting. Now I can take a breath and remember all the philatelic friends that I was able to touch base with after a year's time, the meals shared, showing the treasures found and remembering which dealer had your find so your friends could check it out. I really felt as if I had much better luck making "finds" this year, one dealer had a stock of mostly pre 1990 stamps so I was able to eliminate some of the old want list. On the Monday following the show, there was a trip to 'The house on the Rock' a house of about 20 rooms with annexes, hall ways etc. all filled with collections of everything from alpha to omega including tractors, doll houses, the worlds largest carrousel all of which took 5 hours of walking!!!

There is a new ATA insect handbook covering 10 of the most prolific years of new issues of insect stamps, I've been busy marking the status of all the stamps in it as to whether I have, need or want them. Now I must find a home for all the stamps I found!!!!

Next year the ATA will join with the 'biggy' Washington 2006. Do plan on attending if you possibly can, as International Shows offer everything. Special days for ATA are June 1-3.

Fran Hammond

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